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BOTANICAL EXPEDITIONS STUDY CENTRAL ASIA;
EXPERIMENT WITH RAIN MACHINES,
INSECTICIDES SUCCESSFUL

EXPEDITIONS RETURN TO MOSCOW -- Vechernyaya Moskva, No 220, 15 Sep 49

The two expeditions sent out by the Botanical Garden of the Academy of Sciences USSR to obtain plants in Tyan'-Shan', Altay, and Gissarskiy mountains have returned to Moscow.

The head of the expedition to Tyan'-Shan', Candidate of Biological Sciences G. V. Mikeshin, brought back seeds of wild and extremely fruitful lucerne. These seeds are especially valuable since, during the past few years, the Botanical Garden has been conducting interesting experiments in cultivating wild Central Asiatic lucerne in the Moscow area.

Seeds of clover providing a very bountiful harvest in the hills of Central Asia were also brought to Moscow. In the hills and valley of western T'yan'-Shan', the botanists discovered wild apple trees, some of which had delicious apples. These apple trees can be cultivated and used for raising a new and excellent variety of apples. A wild black currant with berries containing considerably more vitamins than the usual variety was also discovered. Many bulbs, rhizomes, and other useful and decorative plants were gathered. Among the decorative plants, flowers of the aquilegia are particularly noticeable by their milky-white color.

The deputy chief of the Tyan'-Shan' expedition, I. M. Kul'tiasov, worked in the Aksug-Dzherbogly reservation in Tyan'-Shan' and obtained 15,000 plant specimens. Soil scientists and soil microbiologists worked with him. The data which they gathered will be used for an exposition of Tyan'-Shan' flora in the Botanical Garden.

The other expedition, under the leadership of the senior scientific worker V. M. Kuznetsov, was in central and southern Altay and the adjoining steppes. This group gathered more than 8,000 bulbs, rhizomes, and tubers, and discovered

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forage plants which are especially valuable for crop rotation since they do not clog up fields. On one of the Altay ridges, they found many wild, extremely fruitful gooseberry plants having delicious, large berries. There also exists a strange type of currants, whose flavor and aroma remind one of red currants, but which have blackish coloring. Kuznetsov brought back a collection of industrial oil plants which are not found anywhere except Altay. Among the decorative plants sent to Moscow from Altay, the most worthy of mention are the iris, tulips, and delphiniums.

Work on data provided by the expeditions and the planting and sowing of plants is now progressing at the Botanical Garden.

ARTIFICIAL RAINFALL FOR AZERBAIDZHAN -- Pravda, No 269, 26 Sep 49

Baku -- This year a great deal of experimentation has been done in Azerbaydzhan to produce artificial rainfall. In the cotton fields of Shamkhoroskiy and Saatlinekiy rayons, experiments using new rainfall-producing equipment designed by Soviet engineers have been carried out successfully. One such machine irrigated one fourth of hectare in half an hour and then was moved to a new section by two men.

In the subtropical Sovkhoz imeni S. M. Kirov, Lenkoranskiy Rayon, rainfall-producing apparatus has been used for the first time to water tea plantations.

NEW COMPOUND KILLS PLANT PESTS, DISEASE -- Sovetskaya Latvya, No 219, 16 Sep 49

Leningrad -- Candidate of Chemical Sciences A. I. Kulikov and scientific worker of the All-Union Institute for the Protection of Plants L. S. Zonis have prepared a new compound for fighting pests and diseases of agricultural plants. The compound can be used against plant lice which are harmful to berry yielding and cotton plants, against worms damaging subtropical plants, and against cabbage flies.

Experiments using the new compound have given excellent results.

PHYSICS APPARATUS FOR USSR SCHOOLS -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 203, 28 Aug 49

The Leningrad Plant "Elektrodelo" No 10 of the Ministry of Education RSFSR is producing all kinds of equipment for physics and chemistry departments of USSR schools. For the 1949-50 school year, the plant has produced a series of new vacuum apparatus for demonstrating physics phenomena. It has also begun to produce high-voltage inductors with a capacity of 30,000 and 50,000 volts.

MOVING LABS TO AID OIL FIELDS -- Vechernyaya Moskva, No 225, 21 Sep 49

The Checking and Measuring Instrument Plant has completed tests on the first five truck-mounted laboratories, to be used in studying drilling solutions at oil wells.

A new device, a photorecorder, is being set up in the Experimental Geophysical Snop. Designed by the Institute of Applied Geophysics, it records signals received from great depths in the electric exploration of wells.

WEATHER SERVICE NEEDS RADIO MEN -- Sovetskaya Sibir', No 153, 5 Aug 49

The Novosibirsk Hydrometeorological Service needs a radio engineer or experienced radio technician and radio operators for work outside the city on a contract basis. Apply: ulitsa Chaplygina, 73. -- Advertisement

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